

WWA-51

Irwin

Box 1

January 19, 1959

Dean J. E. Willard
Graduate School
Bascom Hall

Dear Dean Willard:

The staff members of the Departments of Genetics and Medical Genetics have been attempting during the past months to make definitive plans for sustaining and developing genetics at the University of Wisconsin. A document which contains the recommendations is enclosed herewith.

One of the recommendations of the group is that a new Genetics Building be built to house the staff of both departments. The critical situation concerning space needs has been accentuated by the resignation of Professor Lederberg and by the requirements of adequate space for a potential successor. Also, four members of the Department of Genetics (R. A. Brink, D. C. Cooper, M. R. Irwin and W. K. Smith) will reach retirement age within ten years, and adequate space for their successors will be a serious problem under existing conditions. Also, research in nearly all phases of genetics is becoming more and more a laboratory science, so that far more extensive laboratory facilities are required even at the present time than are available.

There are 12 staff members in the Department of Genetics whose research activities are now being carried on primarily in the Genetics Building, or to some extent in space borrowed from other departments. At present there are 45 graduate students in the Department, six post-doctoral fellows or their equivalents, and three additional full-time personnel who are connected with research projects. It has been necessary for several years to keep the number of graduate students to the above number because of the limitations of space.

The "assignable area" within the present building ("gross area" about 12,000 sq. ft.) is approximately 9100 square feet, of which laboratories, offices and a research library occupy about 8100 square feet, the departmental office 520 square feet, and the classroom 485 square feet.

Our estimated needs (for the two departments) for the space to be used for research activities in the proposed new building are for 27,000 square feet of "assignable area." (Space for laboratories and work rooms would be 22,400 square feet; for offices, 3500 square feet; for a seminar or conference room, 500 square feet; and for a research library, 600 square feet.) On the basis that approximately 60% of

"gross area" of a building will be "assignable area," the "gross area" of a building to provide 27,000 square feet for research purposes would be slightly more than 45,000 square feet in size. In addition to the area for research space, additional space which would be used for both instructional and research purposes would be needed, as a departmental office, offices for the departmental chairmen, classrooms and teaching laboratories. The estimated size of a building with facilities for both research and instructional requirements would be 55,000 to 60,000 square feet. Of this total area, about 80% would be used for research purposes. If the cost of building would be \$32 per square foot, the total cost would be \$1,750,000 to \$1,900,000, and the cost of the area for research would be \$1,400,000 to \$1,520,000.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire of you whether the trustees of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation might be interested in defraying part of the cost of that area of the proposed building which would be designed for research. Inquiries have already been made of the National Institutes of Health as to the possibility that they might entertain an application for financial support in erecting this building. Their contribution might be as much as 50 per cent of the cost of the area for research in the building, but with complications which involve the question of the use to which the area presently occupied by our research activities will be put, after the present quarters are vacated. The National Institutes of Health have designated genetics as a critical area, and therefore a sympathetic response from them may be anticipated, within their rules of procedure.

If approximately 80% of the cost of construction of a new Genetics Building--the proportion to be used for research activities--can be obtained from sources other than legislative appropriations, there is reasonable expectation that the funds might be obtained from legislative appropriations for that part of the proposed building which will be used for instructional purposes. This building should be located so as to give proximity to several departments of the College of Agriculture and the School of Medicine, and also to the Departments of Botany and Zoology.

Finally, if the trustees of WARF are interested in the construction of this proposed building, might they also consider making available funds sufficient to prepare preliminary sketches such as would be necessary in making formal application to the National Institutes of Health for a grant-in-aid?

Very truly yours,

M. R. Irwin

for
Enc.